

Joint Action Day “Arktos 3”



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European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

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News

During the **Joint Action Day “Arktos 3”** carried out in June 2021, law enforcement authorities in seven EU Member States succeeded in seizing more than 6.7 million cigarettes, and 2.6 tonnes of raw tobacco, along with half a tonne of illegal drugs. 15 smugglers were arrested and more than 220 fraudulent documents detected. Operation Arktos targeted criminal activities at the EU’s northeastern land border, which is a popular route for smuggling goods into the EU. The operation was led by Frontex and assisted by OLAF, Europol, Eurojust, and Interpol. **OLAF supported** mainly by exchanging information between EU Member States and customs authorities. The operation was coordinated under the umbrella of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), a four-year plan for the fight against serious and organised crime (→ [euclid 2/2021, 89-90](#) and [euclid 2/2020, 114](#)). It was the third time that operation Arktos was carried out. It focuses on detecting excise goods smuggling via EU external borders (→ [euclid 4/2020, 278](#)).

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